



PA 18-133—HB 5528

Government Administration and Elections Committee

**AN ACT DECREASING THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION
ON WOMEN, CHILDREN AND SENIORS**

SUMMARY: This act reduces the total membership of the Commission on Women, Children, and Seniors (CWCS) from 63 to 21. To accomplish this, it reduces from nine to three, the total (1) appointments by each of the six legislative leaders and (2) joint appointments by the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore.

By law, a minimum number of the total appointments must be from a specified region of the state (e.g., previously, at least three of the House minority leader's nine appointments had to be from the state's southwestern region). The act reduces the required number of these geographic appointments from at least three to at least one for (1) each legislative leader other than the Senate and House majority leaders, who are not subject to the requirement, and (2) joint appointments by the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore.

Under existing law and the act, prior members' terms expired on June 30, 2018. The current term began on July 1, 2018, which is when the reduction in membership occurs under the act.

By law, members must have experience in the affairs of one of the commission's three constituencies (i.e., women, children and the family, and the elderly). Appointing authorities must divide their appointments equally among the three groups and fill vacancies. Members serve two-year terms.

The act also makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND

Related Act

PA 18-65 makes the same reductions to the membership of the Commission on Equity and Opportunity.

CWCS

By law, the CWCS focuses on issues affecting its three constituencies and makes recommendations to the General Assembly and governor on new or enhanced policies, programs, and services that foster progress in achieving desired quality of life results. In addition, the commission conducts educational and outreach activities to raise awareness of and address critical issues for its constituencies.